



NEWSLETTER



TO BE OR NOT TO BE; THAT IS THE QUESTION!

you are not registered to vote, do so now. Make your voice heard as to the Federal, State and local policies that affect our Town.

- **Attend Town Meetings:** Become informed about the issues, concerns, and opportunities that confront our Town. Communicate with the Mayor and Council as to how you wish to see these issues resolved.

- **Become Active in Community Events:** The Town has a very active community clean-up campaign; a number of events require input as well as volunteer support to include: The Annual Yule Log Celebration; Martin Luther King Celebration, Black History Month, and Cinco de Mayo celebrations just to name a few.

- **Promote Community Safety:** Learn about crime and fire safety and prevention. The Town's Community Resources Office has a wealth of information about both, and has distributed over 30 smoke detectors to residents. Please call Town Hall if you need new smoke detectors.

This phrase is the opening of William Shakespeare's play "Hamlet", but today this phrase means so much more with respect to our joint responsibilities to provide a better community for all to enjoy. Often community members believe that it is "up to the elected officials" to recognize and fix all of the ills in the community. While it is true that elected officials are responsible for getting it done...no issue can be resolved without community input, suggestions, and assistance. Simply put, your voice as heard through actively participating in the election process, attending Town meetings, and joining in efforts and committees to make the community better are essential if you wish to change things for the better.

Certainly we are proud of our community, but here are few things that you can do to be involved and make life in the Town of Bladensburg better for all:

- **Vote in the upcoming Presidential Elections:** If

Inside this Issue

- Fall Leaf Pick-up
- Stopping Domestic Violence
- Town Toy Drive
- Senior Olympics
- Bostwick Fall Festival
- Coming Events
- Quick Bits
- Around Town



Contact Us

301-927-7048
(fax) 301-927-5257
4229 Edmonston Rd.
Bladensburg, MD 20710
www.Bladensburg.com

(Complete information list on back)



- **Become involved in our schools.** Strong PTAs are essential to continue to make a difference in the lives of our youth. We need your support in making our schools the *very best* not only in our community, but in the State. Jointly we also can promote positive achievement in all students. Please let us know when a student (or students) have done a particularly outstanding job. We would like to honor and recognize his or her achievement.
- **Help us inform you:** We are updating our systems to improve communications with our residents via email and (soon) text message. To do this we need your assistance by providing your email address or telephone number. **Please pick-up a form or contact us at Town Hall to get on the list.**
- **Become knowledgeable about your community:** The Town has abundant resources and many historical aspects that range from a beautiful waterfront park, that hosts seasonal concerts and events, to numerous Town or community sponsored actives and clubs that shall engage and entertain you such as the Indian Queen Tavern, reportedly the stopover for George Washington when traveling between his Mount Vernon home. The Town is also a battle site during the War of 1812, an important military conflict fought between the forces of the United States and those of the British Empire.
- **Beautify your front lawn:** Take a moment and plant a few flowers, pick up any debris and generally enhance the “curb appeal” of where you live. A little can do a lot to really enhance the beauty of all of our neighborhoods.

Finally, we ask that you let us know “how we are doing.” Drop a line, e-mail, or call. We are appreciative of all comments and will act accordingly to ensure the delivery of great services to all of our citizens. Will you or will you not be....*involved*?

Sincerely,

Walter L. James, Jr.



LEAVE A LIGHT ON:

In a short while the days will become shorter and sunlight will wane in the early evening. As a crime prevention reminder, consider placing a light on a timer. It helps give your home an “occupied” look while providing you light when you arrive home. For more information about crime prevention tips, please **call The Community Resources at 301-864-6080.**

Are You Living The Dream.....



Please join us for the 8th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration of his life and achievements sponsored by the Newton Green Apts, Emerson House, Parkview at Bladensburg, Bladensburg Parks and Recreation. The event will take place on Saturday **January 21, 2013, between 10:00 am to 12:00 pm** at **Seventh day Adventist Church, 4105 54th, Avenue, Bladensburg, Maryland.** **For more information, please contact Councilman Walter Ficklin, Chair at 301-927-7048 or Dr. Rev. Harris, Co-Chair at 443-306-1960.**



The Town of Bladensburg

Annual



Drive

For

Needy Children



The Town of Bladensburg is collecting new age appropriate toys to give community children who might otherwise not have a wonderful holiday season. *If you are interested in supporting this effort, please send or take your pre-wrapped toy to the Bladensburg Town Hall located at 4229 Edmonston Road, Bladensburg Maryland 20710 prior to December 3, 2012*

www.townofbladensburg.com

Fall Leaf Pick-Up Process

The Town has embarked on a new fall leaf pick-up process. **Each resident is asked to mark bags of leaves with an X by using tape, spray paint, or if you would like to receive Green stickers that will identify leafs placed in bags,** you can call the Code Enforcement office at 301-927-0330. The bags will then be picked-up by the Bladensburg Public Works Department, not the trash company. We ask that you place them at the curb on Wednesdays with other yard waste.

Please note (**DO NOT RAKE LEAFS TO THE CURB**). Please help us keep the Town of Bladensburg safe by cleaning up the leaves so residents will not have to walk in the street.

Please note, if you rake leaves to the curb you will receive a Code Violation notice!

For more information, please contact the Office of Code Enforcement at 301-927-0330.





Pet Waste

Best Management Practices for the Pet Owner



How does pet waste harm the environment?

Did you know that storm drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer systems and treatment plants? Whatever enters the catch basins in our parking lots and roads goes untreated into our creeks, streams, rivers, and streams! The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding.

It is not usual to find bacteria in water samples in and about the Town of Bladensburg and the Prince George's County region were matched with dogs or pet waste.

What Can You Do?

What Can you do?

- Be prepared, when you go for a walk take a plastic bag
- Pick up pet waste
- Remove pet waste from areas where children play
- Keep pet waste away from vegetable gardens and water supplies
- Do not add pet waste to compost pile - it will not get hot enough to kill disease organisms
- Do not dispose of pet waste in the storm drain



Methods of Disposal

- Flush down the toilet
- Put in the trash (check local ordinances first!)
- Bury in the yard

Diseases that Can be transmitted from pet waste

Campylobacteriosis – bacterial infection – frequently causes diarrhea
Cryptosporidium – parasite – symptoms include: diarrhea, stomach cramps, nausea and dehydration – may be fatal to those with depressed immune systems
Toxocariasis – roundworms – may cause vision loss, rash, fever, and cough
Toxoplasmosis – parasite – symptoms include: headache, muscle aches, lymph node enlargement – may cause birth defects if contracted by pregnant women



The Town of Bladensburg

4229 Edmonston Road, Bladensburg, Maryland 20721 (301) 927-7048

www.townofbladensburg.com





BOSTWICK FALL FESTIVAL



On October 8th, the Battle of Bladensburg Taskforce Events Committee remained “undaunted” by the weather and turned the Bostwick grounds into a “Life in the Early Nineteenth Century” experience. Visitors experienced the arrival of period costumed British soldiers who were offered tea (as actually happened at Bostwick prior to the Battle of Bladensburg), storytelling by an African American re-enactor, Native American, African American and Scottish dancing, woodworkers, basket makers, beekeepers, blacksmiths, and experts in genealogy and Prince George’s County history. Popular with the children were: hands-on brickmaking, farm animals, making silhouettes and period games.

University of Maryland Preservation Program Students gave tours of the grounds and talks on the history of Bostwick.

Special thanks goes to ATHA, University of Maryland Preservation Program, Adirondack Tree Service, the Accokeek Foundation, the Piscataway Tribe, Bladensburg Public Works, the Bladensburg Police Department, the Events Committee, and all the other volunteers and participants.

See *you* in the Spring of 2013 for the May Festival, first annual fundraiser.



Domestic Violence Initiatives

The Lethality Assessment Program (LAP), created by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, ***is being implemented by the Bladensburg Police Department starting in October.*** This program is designed for first responders to determine if domestic violence cases are at high risk for lethality (*possible harm or injury*), and will help direct victims of intimate partner violence to assistance from providers.

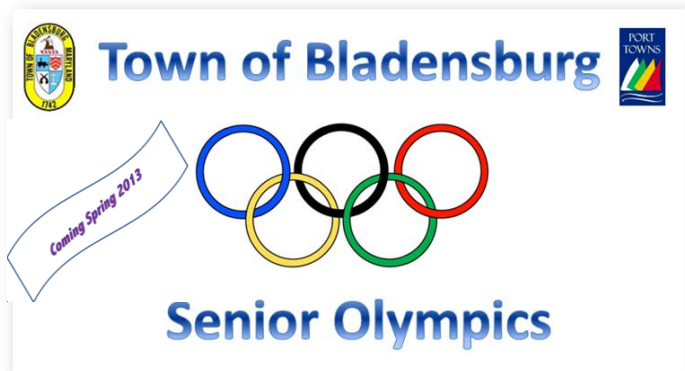
LAP is a proactive approach that encourages victims who are in the gravest danger to seek domestic violence program services. At the heart of the Program is the Maryland Domestic Violence Lethality Screen and Protocol for First Responders, which offers practical methods of working with victims to assess the level of danger they face and linking high-risk victims to domestic violence programs in their area.

The 11-question “Lethality Screen for First Responders” is a straightforward instrument that predicts danger and lethality to a high degree. When a victim scores in at “high danger,” the protocol Referral is put into action. This is when the law enforcement officer who identifies a victim likely to be in “high danger” makes a phone call from the scene to a domestic violence hotline counselor.

For more information, **please contact Lieutenant Scott Davis** at the Bladensburg Police Department **301-864-6080.**



Quick Bits



The Town of Bladensburg Senior Olympics encourages lifelong fitness for the 55+ population for the residents of the Town of Bladensburg. The goal is to plan an event to not only give our senior residents a healthy life choice, but a family day of fun, uniting the community, while enhancing interaction with others. Please come join us this upcoming spring to be active, have fun and get involved!!! ***The first general meeting on November 14, 2012 at 10-12pm, at the Bladensburg Community, 4500 57th Avenue Bladensburg, MD, 20710. For further info please call Chairman Ms. Marilyn Blount at 301-779-6211 or Co-Chair Ms. Davida Picott at 301-699-9785***

Black History Renaissance **Black History Month Celebration**



Please join us for the 8th Annual Black History Month Celebration on **Saturday February 16th, 2013 between 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at Elizabeth Seton High School** 5715 Emerson Street, Bladensburg, Maryland. This year's event promises to be one to remember in celebrating the many African American achievements. There will fun, food and plenty of festivities. **For more information, please contact Town Hall at 301-927-7048.**

Calendar

Worksessions

Second Monday of every month, 5:30 p.m.
(excluding holidays)

Council Meetings

Second Monday of every month, 7:00 p.m.

Seniors' Club

Town Hall, 10 a.m., 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month

Bulk Trash Pick-up

3rd Saturday of every month. Please call by noon the Friday before.

Neighborhood Watch

Every Friday, 7:00 p.m.
Call 301-927-8126 for info.

CERTS Meetings

Second Saturday of every month, 9:00 a.m.
Call 301-927-8126 for info. Please call by noon the Friday before



A Yule log is a large and extremely hard log which is burned in the hearth as a part of traditional Yule or Christmas celebrations in several European cultures. This year the Town of Bladensburg, celebrating its heritage, will host its 5th Annual Yule Log holiday event and tree lighting on Friday December 7th, 2012. Be sure to arrive early and enjoy the festivities, food and merriment of all that is the holiday season. Doors open at 5:30, Tree lighting to occur at 6:30 with songs sung around the yule log fire. Fire more information please contact **Town Hall at 301-927-7048.**

***POINTS AND EVENTS OF INTEREST, EDUCATION, AND FUN!***

Date	Time	Event Name	Location
October 31 st	6:00 pm -9:00 pm	Halloween	Town Wide
November 6 th	All Day	Presidential Election	Voting Poles
November 11 th	11:00 am	Veterans Day	Peace Cross
November 13 th	7:00 pm	Town Meeting	Town Hall
November 22 nd	All Day	Thanksgiving	Town Wide
December 7 th	5:30 am	Yule Log Celebration	Town Hall
December 10 th	7:00	Town Meeting	Town Hall

Every Third of the Month.....**3**

- ***Town Clean-up Saturday of the Month.***
Call Town Hall at 301-927-7048.
- ***Teen Mentoring Program Wednesday of the Month.***
Call Community Resources at 301-927-8126.

3**3****3**

“Volunteering is an act of heroism on a grand scale. And it matters profoundly. It does more than help people beat the odds; it changes the odds.”

- President Bill Clinton-

Be one of the Town's heroes; volunteer today. For more information, call Town Hall at 301-927-7048

*Town of Bladensburg
4229 Edmonston Road
Bladensburg, MD 20710*

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MAILED FROM
ZIPCODE 20710
PERMIT NO. 2132

RESIDENT

*Bladensburg, Maryland
20710*

Around Town



*Town of Bladensburg Recognition Ceremony
September 2012*

Contact Information

Mayor

Walter James301-452-7560

Council Members Ward I

Cris Mendoza240-604-6349

Trina Brown301-927-7048

Council Members Ward II

Walter Ficklin301-792-8199

Walter George301-379-4774

Administrative Offices

301-927-7048

Code Enforcement

301-927-0330

Police Department

301-864-6080

Public Works

301-927-1452